THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): If you had drawn my attention at that time, I would have allowed you... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN: Thank you, Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the Government of Kerala has complained that the Centre has progressively cut the supply of rice to Kerala. I would request the Central Government to increase steadily and firmly the supply of rice to Kerala. What is the reaction of the Central Government to this?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): What is the policy regarding all the States?

SHRI SUKH RAM: Sir, Kerala is the highest taker of rice. Even at present we are supplying 125,000 metric tonnes of rice to Kerala and I have released 20,000 metric tonnes of rice for Onam function also. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN: No, Sir, there has steadily and continuously been a drop in the supplies. Is this a populist policy?

SHRI SUKH RAM: Any request which comes to me from any State Government, I can assure to this extent that I will sympathetically consider it.

Now, as regards wheat import, I have already made it clear that we have contracted for import of two million tonnes that was necessary to replenish our buffer stock and I think there should not be any objection.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (RAILWAYS) 1988-89

रेल मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री (श्री महावीर प्रसाद) : श्रीमान, मैं 1988–89 के वर्ष के लिए अनुदानों के लिए अनुपूरक मांगें रेलवे को दर्शाने वाला एक विवरण अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी में, सभा पटल पर रखता हूं । [पुस्तकालय में रखी गई । देखिये संख्या एल० टी० 6382-क/88]

[The Vice-Chairman (Dr. R. K. Poddar) in the Chair.]

DOCK WORKERS (REGULATION OF EMPLOYMENT) AMENDMENT BILL, 1987—Contd.

SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN (Kerala): Mr Vice-Chairman, Sir, this is a simple Amendment Act. So I do not want to elaborate very long. We get only very rare occasions to support an Act brought forward by a Government which is very incompetent. I support this amendment because this amendment wants to create some accountability and responsibility in the department as far as dock workers are concerned. Sir, we are living in a country where accountability is almost nil. Some great thinker has said India is an effective functioning anarchy. So, when I see a silver ray of hope that somebody is trying to bring some accountability naturally I am encouraged to support. And when I speak on this Bill I say that another act of accountability has taken place in this country. With a high sense of duty and moral accountability the Chief Minister of Karnataka has resigned and blazed a new trail in the history of our political life. I hope by passing this Amending Act this Government will take into consideration other aspects of the problem of dock workers. I come from a State with a long sea-face. We live with dock workers and port workers. We know their problems. After 42 years of freedom there is a type of caste system in ports. A distinction exists between the workers who are under the Port Trust and the workers who are under the Dock Employees Board. The workers under the Port Trust get salaries equivalent to the salaries drawn by the Central Government employees. But the workers who are working under the Dock Boards, get salaries which are much less. Why should this system be there? Why should there be two yardsticks and two approaches to this whole problem? They have to work on piecerate system. In the modern society,